



United States Attorney's Office
District of Columbia

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PRESS RELEASE

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District Man Sentenced to 12 Years For Craigslist Robberies

WASHINGTON – Mallory E. Simpson, Jr., 24, recently was sentenced to 12 years of incarceration on charges stemming from two armed robberies in which he targeted victims found on Craigslist, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

The Honorable Ann O'Regan Keary, of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, sentenced Simpson on July 30, 2010 on one count of conspiracy to commit robbery, two counts of armed robbery, and one count of assault with significant bodily injury. Simpson, most recently of the District, was found guilty of those charges by a jury on April 20, 2010.

The evidence at trial established that Simpson devised a scheme in early November 2008 to use sham Craigslist advertisements to lure unsuspecting buyers into locations where they would be robbed at gunpoint. He recruited his cousin to assist. Simpson posted false ads offering bulk quantities of iPhones for sale, and he then conversed with potential buyers via phone and e-mail.

About 6 p.m. on November 12, 2008, Simpson used his cell phone to lure his first victim into a dark parking lot. As Simpson looked on, his cousin used a BB gun to rob the victim of cash and other items. The two robbers then fled, taking the victim's property.

At approximately 9:45 p.m. the same day, Simpson used his cell phone to lure a second victim out onto the street. As Simpson watched, his cousin, still armed with a BB gun, approached and attacked the second victim. When the victim tried to defend himself with a small knife, Simpson joined in the attack – kicking, punching, and stomping on the victim. As the badly beaten victim lay bleeding on the ground, Simpson reached into his pocket and removed the victim's cash. Both robbers fled, once again with the stolen property.

U.S. Attorney Machen praised the work of Metropolitan Police Department Detective Scott Earhardt and Criminal Investigator John Marsh, who investigated the matter. He also commended Assistant U.S. Attorneys Jonathan Hooks, Reagan Taylor, and Sean M. Lewis for investigating and indicting the case. He further acknowledged the outstanding efforts of Assistant U.S. Attorney Sean M. Lewis, who tried the case to a verdict.

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